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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,880	07/10/2003	Benjamin David Silverman	YOR920030162US1	2640

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EXAMINER

NEGIN, RUSSELL SCOTT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1631

DATE MAILED: 04/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/616,880	Applicant(s) SILVERMAN, BENJAMIN DAVID	
	Examiner Russell S. Negin	Art Unit 1631	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 14-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/10/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, Species A and D (Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 14-18 and 21) in the reply filed on February 13, 2006 is acknowledged.

The traversal between the two Groups is on the ground(s) that the requirement for undue search burden has not been met. This is not found persuasive because the requirement in Group II for calculating and comparing two tertiary protein structures is a feature unique to Group II which requires a different search than that of a single tertiary structure.

The traversal of the first species election requirement is found persuasive due to the arguments made on pages 3 and 4 of the response to the restriction requirement of February 13, 2006. Thus, species A, B, and C are rejoined and claims 2-4 and 18-20 are examined.

The traversal of the second species election requirement is found persuasive due to the arguments made on pages 2 and 3 of the response to the restriction requirement of February 13, 2006. Thus, species D, E, and F are rejoined and claims 6-8 are examined.

Claims 10-13 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected Group or Species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on February 13, 2006.

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The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 1-9 and 14-21 are examined in this Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Silverman [PNAS; April 24, 2001; volume 98, pages 4996-5001].

Claims 1-9 state:

1. A method for calculating a moment of a tertiary protein structure comprising a plurality of residues, the method comprising the steps of:
 - calculating a centroid of residue centroids; using the centroid of residue centroids as a spatial origin of a global linear hydrophobic moment;
 - enhancing correlation between residue centroid magnitude and residue solvent accessibility; and
 - defining the global linear hydrophobic moment, wherein each of the residue centroids contributes a magnitude and direction to the global linear hydrophobic moment.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the correlation between residue centroid magnitude and residue solvent accessibility is enhanced using a distance metric.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the correlation between residue centroid magnitude and residue solvent accessibility is enhanced using an ellipsoidal metric.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the correlation between residue centroid magnitude and residue solvent accessibility is enhanced using a solvent accessibility metric.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the centroid of residue centroids represents a geometric center of the tertiary protein structure.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the global linear hydrophobic moment characterizes an amphiphilicity of the tertiary protein structure.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the global linear hydrophobic moment characterizes a magnitude of amphiphilicity of the tertiary protein structure.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the global linear hydrophobic moment characterizes a direction of amphiphilicity of the tertiary protein structure.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the global linear hydrophobic moment is used to identify functional regions of the tertiary protein structure.

The article of Silverman, "Hydrophobic moments of protein structures: Spatially profiling the distribution," describes how to calculate moments of tertiary protein structures.

In equation [12] on page 4997 of Silverman, r_i is the vector pointing to the centroid of residue i while r_c is the vector pointing to the centroid of the entire protein molecule (i.e. the geometric center of the protein).

In equation [13] on page 4998 of Silverman, a first order hydrophobic moment imbalance about the entire protein is written, accounting for hydrophobicity and solvent accessible surface area. Each centroid of every protein residue contributes to this global moment.

In equations [13] and [14] on page 4998 of Silverman, distance metrics, ellipsoidal metrics, and a solvent accessibility are all used to enhance the centroid magnitude.

The global linear hydrophobic moment characterizes the amphiphilicity, and the magnitude and direction of the amphiphilicity of the tertiary protein structure.

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Figure 6 on page 5000 of Silverman shows how an arm of the protein can be identified as it falls outside the ellipse characterizing the hydrophobic moment of the protein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverman [PNAS; April 24, 2001; volume 98, pages 4996-5001] in view of Michaud [USPAT 4,017,721].

14. An apparatus for calculating a moment of a tertiary protein structure comprising a plurality of residues, the apparatus comprising: a memory; and at least one processor operative to: calculate a centroid of residue centroids; use the centroid of residue centroids as a spatial origin of a global linear hydrophobic moment; enhance correlation between residue centroid magnitude and residue solvent accessibility; and define the global linear hydrophobic moment, wherein each of the residue centroids contributes a magnitude and direction to the global linear hydrophobic moment.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the centroid of the residue centroids represents a geometric center of the tertiary protein structure.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the global linear hydrophobic moment characterizes an amphiphilicity of the tertiary protein structure.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the global linear hydrophobic moment is used to identify functional regions of the tertiary protein structure.

18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the correlation between residue centroid magnitude and residue solvent accessibility is enhanced using a distance metric.

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19. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the correlation between residue centroid magnitude and residue solvent accessibility is enhanced using an ellipsoidal metric.

20. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the correlation between residue centroid magnitude and residue solvent accessibility is enhanced using a solvent accessibility metric.

21. An article of manufacture for calculating a moment of a tertiary protein structure comprising a plurality of residues, comprising: a computer-readable medium having computer-readable code embodied thereon, the computer-readable code comprising: a step to calculate a centroid of residue centroids; a step to use the centroid of residue centroids as a spatial origin of a global linear hydrophobic moment; a step to enhance correlation between residue centroid magnitude and residue solvent accessibility; and a step to define the global linear hydrophobic moment, wherein each of the residue centroids contributes a magnitude and direction to the global linear hydrophobic moment.

The article of Silverman, "Hydrophobic moments of protein structures: Spatially profiling the distribution," describes how to calculate moments of tertiary protein structures.

In equation [12] on page 4997 of Silverman, r_i is the vector pointing to the centroid of residue i while r_c is the vector pointing to the centroid of the entire protein molecule (i.e. the geometric center of the protein).

In equation [13] on page 4998 of Silverman, a first order hydrophobic moment imbalance about the entire protein is written, accounting for hydrophobicity and solvent accessible surface area. Each centroid of every protein residue contributes to this global moment.

In equations [13] and [14] on page 4998 of Silverman, distance metrics, ellipsoidal metrics, and a solvent accessibility are all used to enhance the centroid magnitude.

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The global linear hydrophobic moment characterizes the amphiphilicity, and the magnitude and direction of the amphiphilicity of the tertiary protein structure.

However, the article of Silverman does not teach a computer apparatus of programmable media for performing the claimed analysis.

The patent of Michaud, entitled, "Method and apparatus for determining the position of a body," uses a digital analysis system to calculate a centroid of a body. It is inherent, that in this computer system, there is some sort of computer programmable media to control the computer system.

It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to practice Silverman in view of Michaud because Michaud has the advantage of using a computerized system to calculate centroids of objects which could potentially be used in Silverman to duplicate the instant invention.

Conclusion

No claim is allowed.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the central PTO Fax Center. The faxing of such pages must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The Central PTO Fax Center Number is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell Negin, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-1083. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Ardin Marschel, Ph.D., Supervisory Patent Examiner, can be reached at (571) 272-0718.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Legal Instrument Examiner, Tina Plunkett, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0549.

Information regarding the status of the application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information on the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

-RSN 4/²⁰~~18~~/2006

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4/20/06

John S. Brusca 20 April 2006
JOHN S. BRUSCA, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER